[*Translation*]

Setting up of Spinning Mills in Bihar

5199. SHRI RAM SARAN YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up some spinning mills in the backward districts of Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise, in view of (a) above.

[*English*]

Opening of More Branches of Nationalised Banks in Karnataka

5200. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria for opening branches of nationalised banks in the States;

(b) whether there is any proposal to open more branches of nationalised banks in Karnataka;

(c) if so, the details alongwith the names of places thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d). Under the extant Branch Licensing Policy, the phase of consolidation will continue with emphasis on all out efforts to improve operational efficiency, quality of assets and financial strength of banks. The growth of bank branches will depend on well established need, business potential and financial viability of the proposed branches. Moreover, the opening of branches in terms of the extant policy will be a continuous process, which will be governed by licences issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in this regard. Hence, at this stage it is not possible to project the number of branches of banks that will be opened in Karnataka.

Financial Assistance By IDBI To Small Scale Industries In Tamil Nadu

5201. SHRI CHINNASAMY SRINIVASAN: Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small scale industries specially in Tamil Nadu which have been given financial assistance by the Industrial Development Bank of India during the last one year;

(b) whether the small scale industries like match industry, brick industry etc. are also getting financial assistance from Industrial Development Bank of India;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to expand the activities of the IDBI in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that with the establishment of the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in April, 1990 the responsibility for providing assistance to the small scale sector has been taken over by SIDBI. During 1990-91, SIDBI has sanctioned assistance under its various schemes to 12,732 SSI units in Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c). SIDBI has been extending

assistance to SSI units in all types of industries including the match industry and the brick industry under several schemes, including the Composite Loan Scheme and the National Equity Fund Scheme, both of which are specifically designed for financing artisans and tiny industries in the rural and semi urban areas.

(d) IDBI has reported that as part of its promotional activities it continues to extend financial assistance for the promotion of rural industries in different States, including Tamil Nadu. IDBI has been assisting and encouraging the promotion of entrepreneurship development in rural areas by supporting rural entrepreneurship development programmes which are specially focussed on helping rural persons to set up small & tiny units. IDBI is also selectively assisting voluntary agencies in their activities to provide self and wage employment in the industrial sector, particularly to rural areas.

IL-76 Aircraft

5202. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state·

(a) whether the IL-76 aircraft have been found to be suitable for operation in Indian conditions;

(b) if not, whether any modifications are being carried out in the aircraft.

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of such aircraft grounded so far due to engine trouble?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) Three aircraft have been grounded due to engine trouble.

Soil Testing Laboratories of Rubber Board in Kerala

5203. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start new soil testing laboratories attached to the Regional Offices of Rubber Board in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of such soil testing laboratories in existence at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a) to (c). At present, there are nine soil testing laboratories in existence all over the country. A tenth soil testing laboratory is under the process of establishment at Mangalore in Karnataka. There is no proposal to start any more soil testing laboratories at present.

Passenger Shipping services from Nagapattinam to Singapore

5204. DR. (SHRIMATI) PADMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to restore the passenger shipping services from Nagapattinam to Singapore;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c). A decision has been taken by the Government